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utilizing the device may be employed to remove tissue for purposes other than for biopsy, i.e. for treatment or other diagnoses. Additionally, the tissue penetrating distal tip design may be employed on probes for other uses. Other modifications include, for example, a tissue cutter slidably mounted around the tubular section of the probe component rather than within the tubular section. Moreover, individual features of embodiments of the invention may be shown in some drawings and not in others, but those skilled in the art will recognize that individual features of one embodiment of the invention can be combined with any or all the features of another embodiment. Accordingly, it is not intended that the invention be limited to the specific embodiments illustrated.

Terms such as “element”, “member”, “device”, “section”, “portion”, “means”, “step” and words of similar import, when used in the following claims, shall not be construed as invoking the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112(6) unless the claims expressly use the term “means” followed by a particular function without specific structure or the term “step” or “steps” followed by a particular function without specific action. All patents and patent applications referred herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

What is claimed is:

1. A tissue penetrating element that facilitates advancement through soft tissue to a desired intracorporeal location, comprising:

- a. a proximal base;
- b. a centrally located sharp distal point distal to the proximal base and located on a central longitudinal axis;
- c. a first concave surface that extends from the sharp distal point to the proximal base;
- d. a second concave surface that extends from the sharp distal point to the proximal base and which intersects the first concave surface forming therewith a first continuous curved tissue cutting edge that lies in a first plane parallel to and passing through the central longitudinal axis and extends proximally from the sharp distal point to the proximal base; and
- e. a third concave surface that extends from the sharp distal point to the proximal base and which intersects the first concave surface forming therewith a second continuous curved tissue cutting edge that lies in a second plane parallel to and passing through the central longitudinal axis and extends proximally from the sharp distal point to the proximal base.

2. The tissue penetrating element of claim 1 wherein the curved cutting edges are electro-polished in an acid solution.

3. The tissue penetrating element of claim 1 wherein the first, second and third surfaces have center lines which extend from the base to the sharp distal point.

4. The tissue penetrating element of claim 1 wherein the first, second and third surfaces are equi-spaced about a longitudinal axis of the probe tip.

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5. The tissue penetrating element of claim 1 wherein the concave surfaces have essentially the same surface area.

6. The tissue penetrating element of claim 1 wherein the concave surfaces have essentially the same concavity.

7. The tissue penetrating element of claim 1, wherein a respective longitudinal extent of each of the first concave surface, the second concave surface, and the third concave surface is greater than a respective longitudinal extent of each of the first continuous curved tissue cutting edge, the second continuous curved tissue cutting edge, and the third continuous curved tissue cutting edge.

8. A device for accessing and collecting tissue from a target site within a patient, comprising:

- a. an elongated probe which has a central longitudinal axis, which has a proximal end configured to be secured to a drive, which has an inner lumen extending therein, which has a distal end and which has an aperture proximal to the distal end configured to receive tissue from the target site;
- b. a tissue penetrating tip on the distal end which facilitates advancement through soft tissue to a desired intracorporeal location and has
  - i. a proximal base secured to the distal end of the elongated probe,
  - ii. a centrally located sharp distal point distal to a proximal base,
  - iii. a first concave surface having a center line extending from the sharp distal point to the proximal base,
  - iv. a second concave surface which has a center line extending from the sharp distal point to the proximal base and which intersects the first concave surface forming therewith a first continuous curved tissue cutting edge that lies in a first plane parallel to and passing through the central longitudinal axis and extends proximally from the sharp distal point to the proximal base, and
  - v. a third concave surface which has a center line extending from the base to the sharp distal point and which intersects the first concave surface forming therewith a second continuous curved tissue cutting edge that lies in a second plane parallel to and passing through the central longitudinal axis and extends distally from the sharp distal point to the proximal base and which intersects the second concave surface forming therewith a third continuous curved tissue cutting edge that lies in a third plane parallel to and passing through the central longitudinal axis and extends proximally from the sharp distal point to the proximal base; and
- c. a tissue cutting means which is disposed within the elongated probe and which is configured to cut a tissue specimen from tissue extending into the tissue receiving aperture of the elongated probe.

9. The device of claim 6, wherein a respective longitudinal extent of each of the first concave surface, the second concave surface, and the third concave surface is greater than a respective longitudinal extent of each of the first continuous curved tissue cutting edge, the second continuous curved tissue cutting edge, and the third continuous curved tissue cutting edge.

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